

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W

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R 311416Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7802

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, NI

SUBJECT: DETAINED LABOR LEADERS RELEASED

REF: LAGOS 973

SUMMARY: ALL DETAINED TRADE UNION LEADERS RELEASED
JANUARY 29 AND 30, BUT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LEAVE
UNCLEAR EXTENT FMG DETERMINATION TAKE HARD LINE TO ENFORCE
LABOR PEACE. END SUMMARY.

1. POLICE JANUARY 30 RELEASED SIX TRADE UNIONISTS DETAINED
SINCE EARLY THIS WEEK. POLICE ACTION FOLLOWED PLEA BY
BANK MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS NUNBE OFFICIALS,
THAT NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE BANK DISPUTE COULD NOT TAKE
PLACE WHILE TOP NUNBE OFFICIALS WERE UNDER DETENTION.
ACCORDING TO NUNBE LEADER ANIMASHAUN, POLICE RELENTED TO
MANAGEMENT PRESSURES AND ALLOWED HIM TO GO FREE LATE
JANUARY 30. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN NUNBE AND BANKS IT
COVERS SCHEDULED REOPEN AFTERNOON JANUARY 31.

2. OTHER THREE UNION OFFICIALS RELEASED WERE THOSE INVOLVED
IN LAST WEEK'S DISPUTE WHICH SHUT OFF LAGOS WATER SUPPLY.

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THEY WERE APPARENTLY GIVEN THEIR FREEDOM AFTER WARNING FROM

POLICE NOT TO REPEAT THEIR ILLEGAL ACTION.

3. SEVENTH DETAINED TRADE UNION LEADER, KOLA BALOGUN, WAS RELEASED JANUARY 29 AND IITA STRIKE ENDED FOLLOWING DAY.

4. MEANWHILE OTHER STRIKES ARE CONTINUING. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND JUNIOR STAFF OF SHELL B-P COMPANY INITIATED STRIKE ACTION JANUARY 31, AN ACTION WHICH COULD POSSIBLE AFFECT FUEL SUPPLIES IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.

5. COMMENT: RELEASE OF NUNBE OFFICIALS IN RESPONSE TO MANAGEMENT PLEA LEAVES QUESTION UNANSWERED AS TO EXACTLY HOW STRONG A STAND FMG INTENDS TO TAKE WITH RECALCITRANT UNION LEADERS. FACT THAT SEVEN UNION LEADERS HAVE BEEN DETAINED FOR VARYING PERIODS OF TIME WILL CERTAINLY MAKE OTHER UNION LEADERS THINK TWICE BEFORE ORDERING STRIKES, BUT RELEASE OF DETAINEES WHILE UNIONS STILL ON STRIKE TENDS TO WEAKEN DETENTION AS A STRIKE-BREAKING WEAPON. NEVERTHELESS, FMG ACTION APPEARS TO BE BEST MOVE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME TO HELP CALM SITUATION, THOUGH IT ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATES LIMITATIONS ON ARSENAL AVAILABLE TO FMG UNLESS REGIME IS WILLING TO MAKE REDICAL CHANGE IN ITS MODUS OPERANDI AND TURN TO HARSHER COERCIVE METHODS THAN IT HAS USED TO DATE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, PRISONERS RELEASE, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS01013
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750036-0980
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975013/aaaaache.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LAGOS 973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DETAINED LABOR LEADERS RELEASED
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006